



Aqua Facts

April 2007

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WATER FACTOID:

💧 Over 95% of the Earth's fresh water is in the form of ice at the north and south poles!

Helpful Phone Numbers:

Customer Service:
(210) 354-6500

Emergency Services:
(210) 354-6500

BexarMet Website:
www.bexarmet.org

April Holidays:
27 Fiesta San Jacinto

Save Water in Your Home!

Is your home "water efficient?" Are you giving it every opportunity to save water where possible? Your home can be a friend or foe when it comes to using water efficiently. Make sure your appliances use water as efficiently as possible. If you do not have a water-efficient clothes washer, check out the list of approved washers for the Wash Right rebate program on the BexarMet website at www.bexarmet.org/water_eff/rebates.htm. Replace your old clothes washer with an approved, high-efficiency model and get a \$100 rebate on your water bill.

Your bathroom is also an area where water use can be higher than expected. Replace your old, water-thirsty toilet with a new, high efficiency model and get a \$75 Switch and Save rebate on your water bill. There are also water-efficient showerheads and faucet aerators available at local hardware stores as well.

Be sure to replace the flapper in your toilet regularly and repair leaky faucets both indoors and out. You will reduce water waste around your home and not have to pay for water you don't use!

Board Election – May 12

Just a reminder...ratepayers in Districts 2, 3 and 7 will each be electing a Board member on Saturday, May 12, 2007. Please consult the BexarMet website at www.bexarmet.org/board/election_center.htm for the latest information on the election.

In Depth Focus: Keep Your Sprinkler System in Shape



Reduce Waste from Improperly Programmed & Maintained Sprinkler Systems...

Automatic sprinkler systems are the ultimate in lawn watering convenience. They make it easy to keep your landscape looking beautiful and green without much more than a flip of a switch or pushing a button.

For many homeowners, the operation and oversight of their sprinkler system ends at the controller box. They make sure the system is set to turn on at a certain time, for a certain day or days per week and for a certain number of minutes per zone. Many homeowners don't know whether their sprinkler system is watering too long, not enough, or too many times per week. This creates excessive demand and reduced pressure within the system and results in a lot of wasted water. During the summer irrigation season, 30% to 50% of your total water bill can come from outdoor water use.

The **BexarMet Sprinkler Saver Rebate** program offers a \$15 credit on the water bill each year for homeowners who get their sprinkler system inspected annually by a Texas Licensed Landscape Irrigator. These sprinkler audits ensure that the system has properly adjusted and aimed heads, is not leaking and is timed correctly to apply the proper amount of water for your landscape without causing overflow of water off of your property and resulting in a water waste fine.

If you do not have a sprinkler system and use hoses to water your lawn, you can still benefit by observing how your hose sprinkler applies water. Be sure to move your hose sprinkler to a new location approximately once every 30 minutes and do not lay your hose in the lawn and leave it running. More often than not, water will begin running off of your property and be wasted in the street. Don't forget: BexarMet Water Rules prohibit watering with sprinklers (automatic or hose-end) between 10am and 8pm year round.

***NOTE:** Under BexarMet Water Rule 2006-001, a rain sensor must be installed on all automatic sprinkler systems after June 1, 2006. For sprinkler systems built after June 1, 2006, the rain sensor should be installed at the time of construction and the \$25 Rain Sense rebate is not available. If you install a rain sensor on a system built before June 1, 2006, you may apply for the **\$25 Rain Sense Rebate**.

For more information on the **Sprinkler Saver Rebate** or the **Rain Sense Rebate**, go to www.bexarmet.org/water_eff/rebates.htm. For questions on this program, contact BexarMet at (210) 357-5705 or (210) 354-6532.

Aquifer levels across the region are dropping due to lack of rainfall so far in 2007. According to weather experts, a "La Nina" weather pattern is expected through May 2007, meaning that rainfall will be lower than normal and temperatures will be warmer than normal. Regardless of which weather pattern visits south Texas, please be conscious of your outdoor water use and do not allow water to run off of your property due to poorly adjusted sprinklers or other wasteful practices. Water is a precious resource for San Antonio so we should all be careful not to use it to excess. Use water wisely and efficiently wherever possible because efficient water use helps keep rates from increasing and assures an ample supply for everyone.

Coming in the May 2007 AquaFacts Newsletter...

BexarMet's Demand Management Plan: Protecting the water supply for your home and fire protection during times of excessive demand, drought or system emergencies. Schedule a presentation on this plan for your community group or neighborhood association by calling BexarMet Community Relations at (210) 357-5705.